

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 109  
By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Katherine Purnell  
Rochelle Oakley of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Mrs. Katherine Purnell Rochelle Oakley, mother of colleague Senator Bob Rochelle; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Oakley was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to her family and the Lebanon community; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of the late Samuel Robert Purnell and Tabitha Bains Purnell, she was born in Smith County in 1905 and attended Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, Cumberland University and Watkins Institute; and

WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Miss Katherine", she was retired from the Coca Cola Company and contributed her time and remarkable talents as an active member of AARP, the Taylorsville Home Demonstration Club and the Lebanon Senior Citizens Center; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Oakley was an active and devout member of the Immanuel Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday school class for many years; and

WHEREAS, the legacy she leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by her friends and family for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Oakley enjoyed the loving companionship of her first husband, the late James Marcellus Rochelle, Sr., who preceded her in death, and her second husband, Mr. Robert E. Oakley, who is also deceased; and was the proud parent of two sons and daughters-in-law, James Marcellus Rochelle, Jr. and Anne Rochelle of Gallatin and Senator Robert

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Rochelle and Janice Rochelle of Lebanon; and two daughters and sons-in-law, Sylvia Rochelle Thorne and Robert Thorne of Lebanon, and Terresia Rochelle Bailey and Bill Bailey of Cookeville; she also leaves behind one brother, Oscar Allen "Ollie" Purnell of LaGuardo; and a sister-in-law, Clara Purnell of Simpsonville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Oakley was especially proud of her ten grandchildren: Gary Thorne of Watertown, Ricky and Mark Thorne, both of Lebanon, Jennifer Williams of Hobe Sound, Florida, Ginger Smith of Lebanon, Lee Walker of Cookeville, Allison Weeden of Cookeville, Allen Walker of Pensacola, Florida, Aaron Rochelle of Knoxville and Brice Rochelle of Lebanon; ten great-children: Eric Thorne of Norfolk, Virginia, Traci Pope of Lebanon, Caleb Thorne of Watertown, Tyler White and James Michael Smith, both of Lebanon, Abby and Anna Weeden of Cookeville, Matt, Marci and Molly Thorne, all of Lebanon; her two great-great-grandchildren: Nathan Thorne and Kennedy Pope, both of Lebanon; her step-daughter: Ruth Denning of Portland; her step-grandson, Bobby Agee; and her two step-great-granddaughters, all of Springfield; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mrs. Katherine Purnell Rochelle Oakley, remembering with admiration her exemplary character and many selfless contributions to her family and the Lebanon community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to Senator Rochelle and Mrs. Oakley's entire family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.